

Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

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Office of the State Fire Marshal

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Are Your Fireworks Legal?

In 2007, there were 1059 fireworks-related incidents in Washington resulting in more than \$21.5 million in property loss. Fire service officials urge residents to work together to reduce this loss through responsible and safe use of fireworks.

Take Responsibility:

- Set family boundaries. Talk with family members and guests about the fireworks laws for your area. Laws restricting or banning the use of fireworks in cities and counties are listed on the Washington fireworks website at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks>.
- M80s, M100s or M1000s are not fireworks, they are **illegal explosive devices**. They can cause amputations and other severe injuries. Their use or possession is illegal.

Fireworks sold on tribal lands are not subject to local and state laws and may not be legal in your community. Examples of fireworks legal to purchase and use on tribal lands, but not legal in Washington State, are bottle rockets, firecrackers and missiles. Remember—it's your responsibility to know the laws in your community.

You can be held Accountable: Remember there may be legal consequences for any injuries or damages caused by the irresponsible use of fireworks. These consequences range from being charged with malicious mischief, assault or a gross misdemeanor. Examples include possession of illegal explosive devices such as fireworks that have been altered. A gross misdemeanor can bring a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or one year in prison.

Don't take any chances, be sure the fireworks you purchase are legal to possess and discharge. Know the dates and times fireworks are allowed in your community. Stay away from illegal explosive devices such as M80s and M100s. The damage they cause can be devastating and life altering. For more information about fireworks safety, public fireworks displays and the fireworks laws for your area, check the Celebrate Safely website at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks>.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

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PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!

